

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, IN

SUBJECT: G.K. REDDY ON PRIME MINISTER'S PROPOSED ATTENDANCE AT
JOINT MEETING OF BENGAL GOVT. AND PARTY WINGS

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION NEW DELHI INFO CALCUTTA FROM MADRAS
SEPT 13TH RPTD TO YOU:

QUOTE:

MADRAS 1661

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS : PINT, IN

SUBJECT: G.K. REDDY ON PRIME MINISTER'S PROPOSED ATTENDANCE
AT JOINT MEETING OF BENGAL GOVT. & PARTY WINGS. FOLLOWING IS
TEXT OF G.K. RSV ARTICLE TITLED:
TO ATTEND JOINT MEETING OF BENGAL GOVT. & PARTY
WINGS" APP NIN SEPTEMBER 13 HINDU.

QUOTE

THE PRIME MINISTER, MRS. INDIRA GANDHI, IS EXPECTED TO
PRESIDE OVER A JOINT MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES
OF THE WEST BENGAL PCC AND THE LEGISLATURE CONGRESS PARTY
NEXT WEEK IN AN EFFORT TO BRING ABOUT GREATER COHESION

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BETWEEN THE ORGANIZATIONAL AND GOVERNMENTAL WINGS OF THE

PARTY IN THE STATE.

AT THIS MEETING, THE WEST BENGAL LEADERS WILL CARRY FORWARD THE DISCUSSIONS THEY HAVE BEEN HAVING WITH THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE CONGRESS PRESIDENT ON WHAT IS NEEDED TO BE DONE TO RESTORE AND STRENGTHEN THE UNITED X FUNCTIONING OF THE PARTY AND THE GOVERNMENT.

MR. SIDDHARTHA SHANKAR RAY HAD A MEETING WITH MRS. GANDHI LAST NIGHT . THE CHIEF MINISTER AND SOME STATEMV MINISTERS, THE PCC CHIEF AND HIS COLLEAGUES AND SOME YOUTH CONGRESS LEADERS FROM WEST BENGAL MET THE PRIME MINISTER THIS MORNING. THE MEETING WAS ALSO ATTENDED BY TWO OF THE CENTRAL MINISTERS FROM BENGAL, PROF. D.P. CHATTOPADHYAYA AND MR. PRANAB MUKHERJEE, BESIDES MR. OM MEHTA, THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE HOME MINISTRY WHO HAS BEEN CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH THE MOVES FOR BRINGING ABOUT GREATER COHESION IN THE FUNCTIONING OF THE CONGRESS IN THE STATE. IT IS UNDERSTOOD THERE WAS A FULL AND FRANK DISCUSSION ON THE PRESENT POLITICAL SITUATION IN WEST BENGAL IN THIS CONTEXT.

IMPLEMENTATION OF 20- POINT PLAN

AS PART OF HER GENERAL EFFORT TO IMPROVE THE FUNCTIONING OF THE CONGRESS BOTH IN THE ORGANIZATIONAL AND GOVERNMENTAL SPHERES, THE PRIME MINISTER HAS BEEN LOOKING INTO PARTY AFFAIRS IN VARIOUS STATES TO ENSURE THE SMOOTH IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 20- POINT PROGRAMME. THOUGH CONGRESS POLITICS DIFFER FROM STATE TO STATE, WEST BENGAL AFFIARS HAVE BEEN RECEIVING SOME SPECIAL ATTENTION BECAUSE THEY ARE IN MANY WAYS TYPICAL OF THE PROBLEMS OF PARTY MANAGEMENT THAT THE CONGRESS HAS TO FACE IN SEVERAL STATES.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE CONGRESS HIGH COMMAND CANNOT PRESCRIBE ANY GENERAL RULES FOR REGULATING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE ORGANIZATIONAL AND GOVERNMENTAL WINGS OF THE PARTY, OTHER THAN LAYING DOWN SOME BROAD PRINCIPLES. SO, THE AFFIARS OF EACH STATE WILL HAVE TO BE JUDGED ON THEIR OWN MERITS, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE LOCAL FACTORS IN EACH UNCLASSIFIED

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CASE. THE BASIC PURPOSE OF THIS DRIVE FOR GREATER COHESION IS TO STRENGTHEN THE PARTY AT VARIOUS LEVELS AND MAKE IT A FITTER INSTRUMENT FOR BRINGING ABOUT AN ORDERLY SOCIO-ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION CONSISTENT WITH THE CONGRESS PLEDGES TO THE MPEOPLE.

BETTER WORKING RELATIONSHIP

THE PRIME MINISTER IS PARTICULARLY KEEN THAT THE NEW
ATMOSPHERE OF NATIONAL UNOY AND DISCIPLINE SHOULD
PREVPAY ALL LEVELS AND PRECOLATE DOWN TO THE COMMON MAN,
SO THAT IT CAN BECOME A POSITIVE FEATURE OF THE COUNTRY'S
LIFE. IT IS WITH THIS OBJECTIVE IN VIEW THAT SHE HAS BEEN
TRYING TO BUILD UP A BETTER WORKING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN
THE PARTY UNITS AND THE GOVERNMENTS IN THE STATES. SHE HAS
BEEN REPEATEDLY STRESSING THE NEED FOR GREATER COHESION TO
DRIVE HOME THE POINT THAT THE ORGANIZATIONAL AND GOVERN-
MENTAL WINGS OF THE CONGRESS ARE ONE AND THE SAME, A PART
AND PARCEL OF THE SAME PARTY DEDICATED TO A COMMON CAUSE.

THE OVER-RIDING CONSIDERATION IN DEALING WITH PARTY
AFFAIRS IN THE STATES IS HOW TO MAKE THE BEST POSSIBLE USE
OF AVAILABLE CONGRESS TALENT BY GIVING DUE OPPORTUNITY TO
ALL THOSE WHO ARE CAPABLE OF, AND CAN BE DEPENDED UPON FOR
CARRYING FORWARD PARTY PROGRAMMES WITH THE NECESSARY X
DEVOTION. THE PRIME MINISTER HAS BEEN APPLYING THIS
CRITERION TO ASSESS THE PERFORMANCE OF THE STATE LEADERS
OR MAKE ADJUSTMENTS TO PROVIDE FOR BETTER TEAM SPIRIT
AND GREATER COHESION.

IT IS AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND THAT MRS. GANDHI HAS BEEN
GIVING CONSIDERABLE THOUGHT TO WEST BENGAL AFFAIRS
DURING THE LAST FEW INXB GIVING XLSECTION OF
OPINION A FULL POPPORTUNITY TO COME FORWARD AND SUGGEST
PRECISELY WHAT SHOULD BE DONE TO IMPROVE THE FUNCTIONING
OF THE PARTY IN THE STATE. AFTER SHE HAS MET THE EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEES OF THE PCC AND THE LEGISLATURE CONGRESS PARTY
TOGETHER NEXT WEEK, SHE WILL GIVE HER VEXRDICT WHICH ALL THE
WEST BENGAL GROUPS HAVE OFFERED TO ACCEPT WITHOUT ANY
RESERVATIONS. UNQUOTE. SCOTT

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